**ODI Action Number:** 

# **RQ02-012**

### **RECALL 99V-309 AND IE02-076**

Date: <u>09-10-2002</u>

Subject: GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION 1998 – 2000 BLAZ3ER, JIMMY, AND BRAVADA 4 WHEEL DRIVE MODELS

# ALLEGED FRONT CONTROL ARM BALL JOINT FAILURE

This file contains consumer letters received by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration which complain of the alleged defect that is the subject of this Recall Query. It also contains correspondence between this agency and the manufacturer on the subject. Portions of that correspondence may be withheld where the manufacturer has claimed that they are confidential pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), which exempts from disclosure confidential commercial and financial information. Additional documents relating to this Recall Query may exist, but have not been included in this public file.

If you have any information or concerns you would like to discuss with NHTSA staff, please call the

# toll free AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE 800-424-9393

(In the Washington, DC metropolitan area, please call 202-366-0123)

Also, if you wish to discuss the investigation with NHTSA staff, the HOTLINE contact representative will have a technical staff member return your telephone call.



U.S. Department of Iransportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

### **ODI RESUME**

INVESTIGATION: RQ02 (7/2) DATE OPENED: Sept (6), 2002

SUBJECT: Front Control Arm Ball Joint Failure

PROMPTED BY: 1E02-085

PRINCIPAL ENGINEER: Peter Kivett

MANUFACTURER: General Motors Corporation

MODEL(S): Blazer / Jimmy / Bravada 4 wheel drive models

MODEL YEAR(S): 1998 - 2000

VEHICLE POPULATION: 264,000 4x4 (est. salt-belt population only)

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION: A front suspension control arm ball joint fails, resulting in the front suspension collapsing on the failed side. The combination of an upper or lower ball joint

failure and subsequent suspension collapse may result in a loss of vehicle control.

#### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	OD!	MANUFACTURER	TOTAL
COMPLAINTS:	11	Unk	11
CRASHES:	0	Unk	0
#INJURIES:	. 0	Unk	0
FAT CRASHES	0	Unk	0

ACTION: A Recall Query (RQ) has been opened,

ENGINEER: Peter -Kivett

DIV CHE:

J. amet

DATE:

9/10/02

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DATE:

OFC DIR:

9-10-07

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION: A front suspension upper ball joint may separate without prior warning, causing the top of the front wheel to lean inward, triggering the vehicle to pull in the direction of the failed ball joint (left or right). Ball joint failure may result in a sudden disablement of the steering system.

SUMMARY: ODI has received eleven reports of ball joint failures from the salt-belt region, which led to front suspension-collapse (on the same side as the failed ball joint) in the subject vehicles. Some of the complaints allege a loss of steering and/or braking control. Two complainants alleged that a brake line was severed as a result of the ball joint failure. Six complaints allege reported that an upper ball joint failed, while one reported failure of a lower ball joint; Four did not specify which ball joint failed.

On June 15, 2001 GM conducted safety recall 01V-200 on certain 1996-97 T utility model vehicles for ball joint separation. This recall was influenced by ODI's investigation, EA99-022. The current complaints are similar to the issues previously investigated in EA99-022. Therefore, a Recall Query is opened.

1/3/100



## OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION



# SCREENING RESUME

40minutranes	
IDENTIFICATION: IE02-055	DATE PREPARED: 418 2, 2007
SUBJECT: Suspension Ball Joint Failure	DATE RESOLVED:
PROMPTED BY: Consumer Complaints	
INVESTIGATOR: Steve Chan	
MANUFACTURER: General Motors Corpora	tion
MODEL YEAR(S): 1998-2000	
MODEL(S): Blazer, Jimmy, Bravada (4x4 on	(y)
VEHICLE POPULATION: 264 K (est. for "Sali	t-belt" states)
PROBLEM DESCRIPTION: Allegedly, a front vehicle was being driven. This failure could re	suspension control arm ball joint broke while the sult in a loss of vehicle control.
INCIDEN	NT SUMMARY
COMPLAINTS:	11
CRASHES:	0
INJURY CRASHES:	0
INJURIES:	0
FATAL CRASHES:	0
FATALITIES:	0
FIRES:	0 34
OTHER:	24
Description of Other: Loose, noisy, or worn ball jo	ints, or premature ball joint replacement complaints.
INVESTIGATOR: She Chan	DIVISION CHIEF: Star Chan Jon while
DATE: Aug 2, 2002	DATE: A+ 2, 2002
DISPOSITION:	

Ruf

007 7 **20**02

#### <u>CERTIFIED MAIL</u> RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Lyndon R. Lie. Director Product Investigations General Motors Corporation Mail Code 480-106-304 30500 Mound Road Warren, MI 48090-9055

NSA-13phk RQ02-012

Dear Mr. Lie:

This letter is to inform you that the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has opened a Recall Query (RQ02-012) to investigate allegations of ball joint failures in certain Model Year (MY) 1998-2000 Blazer, Jimmy, and Brayada (4X4 only) vehicles manufactured by General Motors Corporation, and to request certain information.

This office has received eleven reports of sudden front suspension ball joint separations in certain MY 1998-2000 Blazer, Jinuny, and Bravada (4X4 only) model vehicles. These reports allege a loss of steering and/or braking control. Two complainants indicated that a brake line was severed as a result of the ball joint failure. Six complainants reported that an upper ball joint failed, while one complaint alleged that a lower ball joint had failed. Four complainants did not specify which ball joint had failed. A copy of each of the reports is enclosed for your information.

Unless otherwise stated in the text, the following definitions apply to these information requests:

- <u>Subject vehicles</u>: all MY 1998-2000 Blazer, Jimmy, and Bravada (4X4 only) vehicles manufactured for sale or lease in the United States.
- <u>Subject component</u>: all front suspension ball joints manufactured for use on the subject vehicles.
- <u>GM</u>: General Motors Corporation, all of its past and present officers and employees, whether assigned to its principal offices or any of its field or other locations, including all

of its divisions, subsidiaries (whether or not incorporated) and affiliated enterprises and all of their headquarters, regional, zone and other offices and their employees, and all agents, contractors, consultants, attorneys and law firms and other persons engaged directly or indirectly (e.g., employee of a consultant) by or under the control of GM (including all business units and persons previously referred to), who are or, in or after January 1, 1995, were involved in any way with any of the following related to the alleged defect in the subject vehicles:

- a. Design, engineering, analysis, modification or production (e.g. quality control);
- Testing, assessment or evaluation;
- Consideration, or recognition of potential or actual defects, reporting, record-keeping and information management, (e.g., complaints, field reports, warranty information, part sales), analysis, claims, or lawsuits; or
- d. Communication to, from or intended for zone representatives, fleets, dealers, or other field locations, including but not limited to people who have the capacity to obtain information from dealers.
- Alleged defect: Failure of a front suspension control arm ball joint, resulting in a front suspension collapse on the failed side.
- **Document:** "Document(s)" is used in the broadest sense of the word and shall mean all original written, printed, typed, recorded, or graphic matter whatsoever, however produced or reproduced, of every kind, nature, and description, and all non-identical copies of both sides thereof, including, but not limited to, papers. letters, memoranda, correspondence, communications, electronic mail (e-mail) messages (existing in hardcopy and/or in electronic storage), faxes, mailgrams, telegrams, cables, telex messages, notes, annotations, working papers, drafts, minutes, records, audio and video recordings. data, databases, other information bases, summaries, charts, tables, graphics, other visual displays, photographs, statements, interviews, opinions, reports, newspaper articles, studies, analyses, evaluations, interpretations, contracts, agreements, jottings, agendas, bulletins, notices, announcements, instructions, blueprints, drawings, as-builts, changes, manuals, publications, work schedules, journals, statistical data, desk, portable and computer calendars, appointment books, diaries, travel reports, lists, tabulations, computer printouts, data processing program libraries, data processing inputs and outputs, microfilms, microfiches, statements for services, resolutions, financial statements, governmental records, business records, personnel records, work orders, pleadings, discovery in any form, affidavits, motions, responses to discovery, all transcripts, administrative filings and all mechanical, magnetic, photographic and electronic records or recordings of any kind, including any storage media associated with computers, including, but not limited to, information on hard drives, floppy disks, backup tapes, and zip drives, electronic communications, including but not limited to, the Internet and shall include any drafts or revisions pertaining to any of the foregoing, all other things similar to any of the foregoing, however denominated by GM, any other data compilations from which information can be obtained, translated if necessary, into a usable form and any other documents. For purposes of this request, any document which contains any note. comment, addition, deletion, insertion, annotation, or otherwise comprises a non-identical copy of another document shall be treated as a separate document subject to production.



In all cases where original and any non-identical copies are not available, "document(s)" also means any identical copies of the original and all non-identical copies thereof. Any document, record, graph, chart, film or photograph originally produced in color must be provided in color. Furnish all documents whether verified by the manufacturer or not. If a document is not in the English language, provide both the original document and an English translation of the document.

• Other Terms: To the extent that they are used in these information requests, the terms "claim," "consumer complaint," "field report," "fleet," "goodwill," "make," "model," "model year," "property damage," "property damage claim," "type," "warranty adjustment," and "warranty claim," whether used in singular or in plural form, have the same meaning as found in 49 CFR 579.4.

In order for my staff to evaluate the alleged defect, certain information is required. Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30166, please provide numbered responses to the following information requests. Insofar as GM has previously provided a document to ODI, GM may produce it again or identify the document, the document submission to ODI in which it was included and the precise location in that submission where the document is located. When documents are produced, the documents shall be produced in an identified, organized manner that corresponds with the information request letter (including the subparts). When documents are produced and the documents would not, standing alone, be self-explanatory, the production of documents shall be supplemented and accompanied by explanation.

Please repeat the applicable request verbatim above each response. After GM's response to each request, identify the source of the information and indicate the last date the information was gathered. If requested information, so state and provide a brief explanation.

- 1. State the number of subject vehicles GM has manufactured for sale or lease in the United States by make, model and model year. Furnish an electronic summary of the following information for all subject vehicles manufactured to date by GM in Microsoft Access 2000, or a Microsoft Access 2000 compatible format, entitled "PRODUCTION." See Enclosure 1, Data Collection Disc, for a pre-formatted table designed for this submission.
  - a. Vehicle identification number (VIN);
  - b. Make;
  - c. Model;
  - d. Model Year:
  - e. Date of build;
  - f. Warranty/service start date; and
  - g. U.S. State where the vehicle was originally sold.
- 2. State the number of, and provide copies of all documents relating to the alleged defect in the subject vehicles, from each of the following categories, either received or authorized by GM, or of which GM are otherwise aware. For each source, organize the information by file/report number:
  - a. Consumer and fleet complaints;



- Field reports, including all reports and requests for technical assistance from dealer personnel and/or zone offices;
- c. Reports of, or requests for, roadside assistance or recovery;
- d. Fire incident reports:
- Crash, injury and fatality reports, regardless of whether any claim, proceeding, or lawsuit is or was involved;
- Property damage claims that do not involve a crash or fire;
- g. Subrogation claims;
- h. Third-party arbitration proceedings where GM is a party to the arbitration; and
- Lawsuits, both pending and closed, in which GM is or was a defendant or codefendant.

Furnish a total number for each item separately, and provide copies of all requested documents, whether or not they have been verified by GM. GM's response shall include, but not be limited to, (1) all reported incidents that have occurred or may have occurred, at least in part, due to circumstances, conditions, or problems caused by the alleged defect in the subject vehicles; (2) complaints or information provided by fleets, consumer groups, government agencies, insurance companies, and other entities that have provided such information to GM; and (3) all crash, injury, or fatal incidents, regardless of whether any claim, proceeding, or lawsuit is or was involved, or whether or not each has been verified by GM. Multiple incidents involving the same vehicle are to be counted separately.

For items "d" through "i," the documentation provided should also include GM's file number; a summary of alleged component failure and causal factors; GM's assessment of the failure with a description of the significant underlying facts and evidence; and the identity of all involved parties, caption, court, docket number, and filing date (items "g" through "i" only).

- 3. Furnish an electronic summary of the following information, in Microsoft Access 2000, or a Microsoft Access 2000 compatible format, entitled "FIELD DATA," summarizing the records provided in response to question 2. See Enclosure 1, Data Collection Disc, for a preformatted table designed for this submission.
  - a. GM file number:
  - b. GM category as stated in Response 2 (2a; consumer and fleet complaints, etc.);
  - Vehicle owner or fleet name (and fleet contact person), address, and telephone number;
  - d. Vehicle's VIN, make, model, model year and mileage at time of incident;
  - e. Incident date:
  - Report or claim date;
  - g. Whether a fire is alleged;
  - h. Whether a crash is alleged;
  - Whether property damage is alleged;
  - j. Number of alleged injuries, if any; and
  - k. Number of alleged fatalities, if any.

If GM has developed or is developing other tables related to the alleged defect in the subject vehicles, provide electronic copies of each such table in separate submissions with a description of each and when they were created.



4. State the total number of warranty claims; extended warranty claims; requests for "good will." field, zone, or similar adjustments and reimbursements; and claims or repairs made in accordance with a procedure specified in a technical service bulletin or customer satisfaction campaign that have been received by GM to date that relate, or could relate, to the alleged defect in the subject vehicles by model and model year. Describe the search criteria, including all labor operations and problem codes, used by GM in responding to this request and provide an electronic copy of all problem codes and problem code descriptions applicable to the subject component.

Also, furnish an electronic summary of the following information, in Microsoft Access 2000, or a Microsoft Access 2000 compatible format, entitled "WARRANTY DATA," listing the warranty claims for the subject component, including those contributing to the total count identified in GM's response to this request. See Enclosure I, Data Collection Disc, for a preformatted table designed for this submission.

- a. GM's claim number;
- b. Vehicle owner or fleet name (and fleet contact person) and telephone number;
- c. VIN:
- d. Repair date:
- Repair mileage;
- f. Repairing dealer name, phone number and city and state or ZIP code;
- g. Labor operation number and description;
- h. Problem code and description;
- Replacement part number(s) and description(s);
- j. Customer concern summary; and
- k. Dealer/technician comment summary.
- 5. Furnish a copy of each service, warranty, or technical document(s), including (but not limited to) bulletins, advisories, informational documents, training documents, or other communications that relate to or may relate to the alleged defect in the subject vehicles that GM has issued to any dealers, regional or zone offices, field offices, fleet purchasers, or other entities.
- 6. Identify and describe all studies, surveys, investigations, testing, and other analyses pertaining to the alleged defect in the subject vehicles that have been, are being or will be conducted by, or for, GM. For each such action, provide copies of all relevant documents, as a separate enclosure and in chronological order. This should include, but not be limited to, methodologics, action plans, final reports and presentations with the original file names and dates, regardless of whether the documents are in interim, draft, or final form. Also, furnish an electronic summary of all such actions, including the following information, in Microsoft Access 2000, or a Microsoft Access 2000 compatible format, entitled "INVESTIGATIONS". See Enclosure 1, Data Collection Disc, for a pre-formatted table designed for this submission.
  - a. Study title, identifier or 1D number;
  - b. The actual or planned start date;
  - The actual or planned end date;



- d. Brief summary of the subject or objective;
- e. Engineering group/supplier responsible; and,
- Findings and or conclusions.
- 7. Identify and describe all modifications or changes made by, or on behalf of, GM in the manufacture, design, or material composition of the subject components from the start of production to date, which may relate to the alleged defect in the subject vehicles. The following information must be included for each such modification or change:
  - The date or approximate date on which the modification or change was incorporated into production;
  - A description of the modification or change;
  - The reason(s) for the modification or change;
  - d. The part number of the modified part:
  - e. Whether the original unmodified component was withdrawn from sale, and if so, when; and
  - f. Whether the modified or changed components can be interchanged with earlier production components.

Also, include the above information for any modification or change that GM is aware of which may be produced, distributed, or made available within the next 120 days.

- State the number of each of the following that GM has sold for use in the subject vehicles by component name, part number (both service and engineering); supplier; and month/year of sale:
  - a. Subject component;
  - b. State, by model and model year, all vehicles in which it is used; and
  - c. Any kits that have been released, or developed, by GM for use in service repairs to the subject component/assembly.

Provide the supplier name and address and the name, title, and telephone number of the appropriate point of contact for each component.

- 9. Furnish GM's assessment of the alloged defect in the subject vehicle, including:
  - a. The causal or contributory factor(s);
  - b. The failure mechanism(s):
  - c. The failure mode(s);
  - d. The risk to motor vehicle safety that it poses; and
  - e. The reports included with this inquiry.
- 10. Please update ODI in conjunction with past investigation EA99-022. This should include all information in GM's possession or control, or of which it is otherwise aware, which relates or potentially relates to the alleged defect associated with EA99-022. State the number of, and provide copies of all documents relating to the alleged defect in the subject vehicles, from each of the following categories, either received or authorized by GM, or of which GM are otherwise aware. For each source, organize the information by file/report number:
  - a. Consumer and fleet complaints;

- b. Field reports, including all reports and requests for technical assistance from dealer personnel and/or zone offices;
- c. Reports of, or requests for, roadside assistance or recovery;
- d. Fire incident reports;
- c. Crash, injury and fatality reports, regardless of whether any claim, proceeding, or lawsuit is or was involved;
- Property damage claims that do not involve a crash or fire;
- g. Subrogation claims;
- h. Third-party arbitration proceedings where GM is a party to the arbitration; and
- i. Lawsuits, both bending and closed, in which GM is or was a defendant or codefendant.

Furnish a total number for each item separately, and provide copies of all requested documents, whether or not they have been verified by GM. GM's response shall include, but not be limited to, (1) all reported incidents that have occurred or may have occurred, at least in part, due to circumstances, conditions, or problems caused by the alleged defect in the subject vehicles; (2) complaints or information provided by fleets, consumer groups, government agencies, insurance companies, and other entities that have provided such information to GM; and (3) all crash, injury, or fatal incidents, regardless of whether any claim, proceeding, or lawsuit is or was involved, or whether or not each has been verified by GM. Multiple incidents involving the same vehicle are to be counted separately.

For items "d" through "i," the documentation provided should also include GM's file number; a summary of alleged component failure and causal factors; GM's assessment of the failure with a description of the significant underlying facts and evidence; and the identity of all involved parties, caption, court, docket number, and filing date (items "g" through "i" only).

This letter is being sent to GM pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30166, which authorizes NITTSA to conduct any investigation that may be necessary to enforce Chapter 301 of Title 49. It constitutes a new request for information. GM's failure to respond promptly and fully to this letter could subject GM to civil penaltics pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30165 or lead to an action for injunctive relief pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30163. (Other remedies and sanctions are available as well.) Please note that maximum civil penaltics under 49 U.S.C. § 30165 have increased as a result of the recent enactment of the Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act, Public Law No. 106-414 (signed November 1, 2006). Section 5(a) of the TREAD Act, codified at 49 U.S.C. § 30165(b), provides for civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per day, with a maximum of \$15 million for a related series of violations, for failing or refusing to perform an act required under 49 U.S.C. § 30166. This includes failing to respond to ODI information requests.

If GM cannot respond to any specific request or subpart(s) thereof, please state the reason why it is unable to do so. If on the basis of attorney-client, attorney work product, or other privilege, GM does not submit one or more requested documents or items of information in response to this information request, GM must provide a privilege log identifying each document or item withheld, and stating the date, subject or title, name and position of the person(s) from, and the person(s) to whom it was sent, and the name and position of any other recipient (to include all



carbon copies or blind carbon copies), the nature of that information or material, and the basis for the claim of privilege and why that privilege applies.

GM's response to this letter, in duplicate, together with a copy of any confidentiality request, must be submitted to this office by November 25,2002. Please include in GM's response the identification codes referenced on page one of this letter. If GM finds that it is unable to provide all of the information requested within the time allotted, GM must request an extension from me at (202) 366-5207 no later than five business days before the response due date. If GM is unable to provide all of the information requested by the original deadline, it must submit a partial response by the original deadline with whatever information GM then has available, even if an extension has been granted.

If GM claims that any of the information or documents provided in response to this information request constitute confidential commercial material within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), or are protected from disclosure pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1905, GM must submit supporting information together with the materials that are the subject of the confidentiality request, in accordance with 49 CFR Part 512, to the Office of Chief Counsel (NCC-30), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5219, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. GM is required to submit two copies of the documents containing allegedly confidential information (except only one copy of blueprints) and one copy of the documents from which information claimed to be confidential has been deleted.

If you have any technical questions concerning this matter, please call Peter Kivett of my staff at (202) 366-6178.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey L. Quandt, Chief Vehicle Control Division Office of Defects Investigation

Enclosures

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Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire 705566 submitted 4/13/99 10:19:31 AM Owner Information bome phone business phone fay emai' Have NHTSA send signature card for authorization? Yes Vehicle Information vin 1GNDT13W6W2130996 make Chevrolet model Blazer year 1998 odometer 33485 purchase date 09/97 new or used? New body style 4-Door dealer Sable Chevrolete 910 Brownsville Road Pittsburgh, PA 15210 4123-81 -9000 engine size 190 HP cylinders 6 . fuel injection Y turbo N fuel type Gas antilock br. Y cruise control Y drive train 4 Wheel driver's airbags passenger's airbags seat belts front Y front Y 3-point N dde N side N 2-point N motorized N Incident(s) Incident Number falled component / part details major assembly unknown description Tie Rod and Ball Joint on Rt Front Wheel Assembly location number of date of mileage at speed at manufacturer NHTSA left/right front/rear isaigino failures failure failure failure contacted contacted Right Front Original 10/6/98 24000 1 15 Y N incident details airbags deployed number of estimated number of police accident fire driver's passenger's persons injured fatalities property damage report filed Y front N side N front N side N 0 0 \$100 N Tire Information DOT number manufacturer

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#### Comments

Moving at approximately 15 mph in a Condiminium Plan, I rounded a curve when the right front side of my vehicle dropped down and my vehicle swerved right onto the grass hillside beside the road. When AAA arrived, it looked like the wheel had fallen off. After having it towed to the nearest dealer, they informed me that the tie rod had pulled out of the ball joint which holds the wheel to the axle. The service manager then informed me that they would not fix it ancier. werranty because it was his impression that something had been hit because their was grass and dirt up under the front right bumper and wheel well. Lexplained to him that the grass and dirt was from when the vehicle slammed into the grass hillside after the wheel fell off but it did not change his opinion. I decided to pay \$300 to tow my vehicle back to the dealer I leased it from. They would not fix it under warranty either citing the original service man's report. After several letters and calls to Chevrolet's customer service, they finally responded to me and said there were no grounds for fixing the problem under warranty. The damage to the vehicle ended up being \$1200,00 to fix the ball joint and tie rod. Not to mention another \$400 for body work. On top of this, my dealer claimed that when the wheel fell off, the entire frame was bent. How could a Sport Utility Vehicle traveling 15 mph get its frame bent from the tie rod braking? On top of that, it took my dealer, 5 weeks to fix the problem. It cost me \$750 out of my own pocket to pay for a rental car-I didn't turn it into my insurance because they informed me they would have to list it as an 'at fault accident' since the dealer would not fix the problem under warranty. So basically, a manufacturer's problem cost me \$2250. What bothers me, is that the whole process was determined by the first moren service guy at the initial dealer who reported that it was his opinion something was struck. Chevrolet would not send a service mgr.



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The Privacy Act of 1974-Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect if the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or Higation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action

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The Privacy Act of 1974-Fublic Lew 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

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From Donney of O & B. H. 3403 mass

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	7	OT Auto Safety Hotline	ə	_	R AGENCY USE	ONL Y 335
U.S. Department	Vehicle Own	er's Questionn	aire (VOQ)	Date	Received! V !	O-d_or
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The Privacy Act of 1974-Public Law 93-679 This information is requested ourspant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Antian subsequent amendments. You are under no lobbligation to respond this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect, if the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or Digation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

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U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety **Administration** 

400 Seventh St., S.W. Washington, D.C. 20590

> National Highway Traffic Safety US Department of Fonstoriation

http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hot/ho

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U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration DOT Auto Safety Hotline, NSA-10.1 400 7th Street, SW Washington, DC 20590

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DCT Auto Safety Hothine (DASH) 2 DOT

888-DASH-2-DOT 1-888-327-4236

DASH2DOT

and dial toll free at

TO REPORT VEHICLE SAFETY DEFECTS COMPLETE THIS FORM

DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE

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Signature of Own	er			· · <u> </u>				_ Date		<u></u>		
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Do you authorize NHTSA testimustics common report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? SES NO in the absence of an auf:    An including the power name and address to the vehicle manufacturer.   Date 2 12303										
Signature of Owner	<u> </u>						<del></del> -	<del></del> _		
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The Privacy Act of 1974 Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Treffic Setety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond this questionnaire. You response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

U.S. Department of Transportation

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ASH2DOT

and diel toll free at

COMPLETE THIS FORM

DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE TO REPORT VEHICLE SAFETY DEFECTS

"NAK"

COPIEI

April 5, 2001

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OFFICE DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Mr. C. Richard Wagoner, Jr. General Motors President and CEO P.O. Box 33170 Detroit, MI 48232-5170

Dear Mr. Wagoner,

It is with regret that I must write to you. In the past few years, I have leased two Chevrolet products, a 1997 Cavalier, which I never had a problem with, and a 2000 Biazer, which I have had numerous problems.

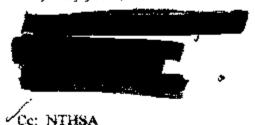
The problems I have encountered are a power window on the driver's side which has failed, a scat handle which broke off in my hand, and most recently the wheel on the front passenger side which fell off my vehicle while I was driving. Fortunately, I had just left the highway and had come to a complete stop. Otherwise, I could have had a very serious accident.

I took the vehicle to Keigan in Franklin, Massachusetts. They told me that the wheel was missing a cotter pin and this had caused the failure. I had a problem on the driver's side of the truck last summer and had some repairs done but the repair company did not touch the passenger side of the vehicle. Keigan would not cover the repairs under warranty and said that the right side had been tampered with. This is not the case! I was charged \$794.59 to repair the damage.

I am enclosing copies of both the previous repair bill and the Keigan repair bill. I do not feel this charge was justified as the passenger side had never sustained any damage and was not touched last summer. This recent repair should be covered under the warranty and I am very dissatisfied with the Keigan decision.

Has there been a previous history of failures of this kind? I am asking you to please investigate this matter. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



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passenger eff they left term slow.

Tart steering.

This may think in head up their head



#### Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire

Office of Defects Investigation

#### **VOQ** Confirmation

[Please proceed to the end of this page, after confirming your input, and select the "Submit VOO to NHTSA" button. NHTSA will not receive a record of your complaint unless this button is selected.)

#### Owner Information

FirstName:

LastName:

MI:

Organization:

Address 1:

Address 2:

City:

State:

Zip:

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

Ext:

. .

Fax Number:

Email Address

Would you like to receive a mailed signature card authorizing release of your vehicle information to manufacturers? Yes

#### Vehicle Information

Vehicle Identification Number (VIN): 1GNCT18W3YK247412

Vehicle Make: Chevrolet Vehicle Model: Blazer

Vehicle Year: 2000 Current Odometer Reading:

New or Used: New Purchase Date: 05/00

Engine Size:	•	Antilock Brakes:	No
No. Cylinders:	6	Driverside Airbag:	Yes
Fuel Injection:	No	Passengerside Airbag:	No
Turbo:	Nο	Side Airbag - Oriver:	Νo
Fuel Type:	Qas	Nide Airbag - Passenger:	Νo
Drivetrain:	Front	3-Point Belt:	Nο
Cruise Control:	Yes	Motor Belt:	No
Budy Style:	2-E'oor	2-point Belt:	Nσ

#### Dealer Information

Name: Keigan

Address: 340 East Central Street

City: Franklin

State: MA Zip: 02038

Phone: (508) 528-1111

#### Failed Component/Part Information

Major Assembly	Description		ocation Location Left-Right Front-Rear		Part Num. Type Failures		Fallure Mileage		Mig NH7 Contacted Contr	
	Crash	Fire	Driver Airbag Deployed	Sidebag	Partenger Airbag Deployed	Passengor Sidebag Deployed	Num. Injured	Num. Fatalities	Esc Uamage	Poli Rep
WHEELS	upper ball joint missing cotter par	Right	Front	Original	. · I	U3/25/2002	NA NA	0	Yes	. <b>N</b> r
	Nσ	No	NA	ŇĀ	NA	NA	0	0	<b>\$79</b> 5	Nı

#### Information on Tire Failure

BOT Number: N

MA

Manufacturer:

ΝiA

Tire Name:

MA

Complete Tire Size: NA

45028(11 P)